

531 Rec'd PCT/P

07 DEC 2001

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Gerhard Nossing

Art Unit :

Serial No. :

Examiner :

Filed : December 7, 2001

Title : GROUND KEY DETECTION CIRCUIT AND METHOD FOR  
INTERFERENCE-RESISTANT DETECTION OF THE ACTIVATION OF A  
GROUND KEY FOR TELEPHONESCommissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Prior to examination, please amend the application as follows:

In the claims:☒ Cancel claims 1-16. ☒☒ Add claims 17-44. ☒

-- 17. A circuit for interference-proof detection in the operation of a grounding key, the circuit comprising:

a current detection device configured to detect a current flowing when the grounding key is in operation;

a comparator configured to compare the detected current with at least one threshold value; and

a monitoring circuit configured to:

detect a first period when the current exceeds the threshold value;

## CERTIFICATE OF MAILING BY EXPRESS MAIL

Express Mail Label No. EL 245470217 US

I hereby certify under 37 CFR §1.10 that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as Express Mail Post Office to Addressee with sufficient postage on the date indicated below and is addressed to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 2327, Arlington, VA 22202.

Date of Deposit 12-7-01Signature Henry JenkinsTyped or Printed Name of Person Signing Certificate Henry Jenkins